A GREAT ARAB RULER WHOSE STAUNCH FRIENDSHIP FOR BRITAIN IS OF LONG STANDING: HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH OF THE HASHIMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN.

King Abdullah Ibn Hussein, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., second son of the late King Hussein of the Hejaz, and elder brother of the late King Feisal of Iraq, was formerly the Emir of Transjordan. In 1946 Great Britain recognised Transjordan as a sovereign independent State, and in May of that year the Emir assumed the title of King. In the following June the name of the territory over which he rules was changed to the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, a title now in general use. Arab Palestine was formally incorporated in Jordan in April, 1950. King Abdullah has long been a staunch friend of Great Britain. In World War I. he was an instigator of the Arab revolt which, with the help of the British, led to the expulsion of the Ottoman Turks from the group of Near East Arab countries. In World War II. his armies fought against the Vichy French in Syria and he helped to overthrow the pro-Nazi Government and forces of the usurper Rashid Ali in Iraq. King Abdullah is a natural leader and, as a direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, he has immense personal and religious prestige among Muslims. His Kingdom, whose area is 34,750 square miles, is internally secure, its administration enlightened and progressive, and Communism has made little headway in Jordan. He is a great statesman, and is also a poet, and has few equals as a scholar of his ancient language. He plays chess with more than average skill, and is a fine judge of horseflesh.

Colour Photograph by Robert Young.

IN A FAMOUS ENGLISH COLLECTION OF FLOWERING CHERRIES: A DRIVE AT BENENDEN, WITH "KANZAN" (LEFT) AND A SINGLE TREE OF *PRUNUS SARGENTII* (RIGHT).

TWO CONTRASTED VARIETIES OF THE JAPANESE FLOWERING CHERRY GROWING BESIDE THE GRANGE AT BENENDEN, IN KENT: (LEFT) "KANZAN" AND (RIGHT) "HOKUSAI."

IN Japan, ornamental cherries hav cultivated for their beauty fro immemorial, and double-flowered forms are known to have been in ex in that country for at least a th years. But because Japan was vi closed to the outer world until 1856, not from there, but from China, th first Oriental cherry reached Er This was in 1819. To Baron von S must be given the credit of having duced into Europe, some forty-five later, the first two Japanese ch These were a lovely form of the so Spring Cherry and a pink-blossomed subsequently named *Prunus sieboldi* of which are still being grown. Captain Collingwood Ingram, in garden (The Grange, Benenden, Ken colour photographs were specially started to make his collection of trees in 1919, probably not more t dozen varieties we in general culti in England. Since en, not only fron country of origin, but also from A and every other possible source, he ha steadily adding to this number un now possesses over ninety forms of Jap cherries alone. Apart from these collection contains many species gl from every part of the world in whic genus is known to occur. While a lovely, in Captain Ingram's consi opinion none is more beautiful tha double variety of our native Gean— which is now being sadly neglected fo more gaudy and flamboyant Ori varieties. Most of the cherries plant his garden and adjacent woodlands there are many hundreds of them— now grown into large-sized trees w bear every spring an amazing weal blossom. Captain Ingram wishes u say that he will welcome any ove visitor who may care to visit his ga during the latter half of April or early We understand that this invitation ap especially to Americans, for it is from country that he has derived many o rarest specimens.

"LOVELIEST OF TREES, THE CHERRY NOW IS HUNG WITH BLOOM ALO

A CLOSE-UP OF THE INCREDIBLE RICHNESS OF "KANZAN'S" LARGE DOUBLE PINK BLOSSOMS AGAINST THE HIGH BLUE AND WHITE SKY OF SPRING.

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CHERRIES AT BENENDEN GROWING IN GRASSY RIDES—THE FITTEST SETTING FOR THIS LOVELY FLOWERING TREE. LEFT, NEAR THE CAMERA, THE VARIETY "ICHIYO."

OM ALONG THE BOUGH..." *A. E. HOUSMAN, "A SHROPSHIRE LAD."*

THE STATELY PAGEANTRY WHICH SURROUNDS AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN CHIVALRY FOUNDED MORE THAN 600 YEARS AGO: THE ANNUAL SERVICE OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER.

The annual service of the Most Noble Order of the Garter takes place in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, Chapel of the Order (constituted by Edward III. *c.* 1348), and presents a scene of pageantry unrivalled in splendour and historical association. This year it is fixed for May 9; last year it was held on April 27, and our photograph in colour gives some idea of the scene. The King, Sovereign of the Order, and the Queen, First Lady of the Order, are descending the Chapel steps after the Service. These steps are lined with a Guard of Honour of the Household Cavalry, while a detachment of the King's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard are on duty (backs to the camera). On the extreme right may be seen the Military Knights of Windsor, who are associated with the Order. The Knights Companions, the Officers of the Order and the Officers of Arms in mediæval tabards, add further splendour. The Order consists of the Sovereign and twenty-five Knights Companions, such lineal descendants of George I. as may have been elected, foreign sovereigns and extra Knights admitted by special statutes. Queen Mary and Princess Elizabeth are Ladies of the Order.